

Monday in the Easter Octave – 6th April 2026:

The religious authorities look to suppress any notion that Jesus has risen from the dead, suggesting the disciples stole the body. It is a weak argument, for on Easter Day, they were in hiding, expecting to be arrested; that they have suddenly discovered the courage to creep past the guards and break into the tomb is inconceivable. It is not until Pentecost, and the descent of the Holy Spirit that the Church is ready to be Apostolic. Then, St Peter (*as the leader of the college of Apostles*) announces that the Messianic times have arrived, boldly proclaiming that Jesus, the one crucified, is the Messiah, the redeemer who brings into effect God's saving plan for humanity, reminding them also of the miracles that he worked. Peter is inspired by the Spirit to preach and argue the truth of His Resurrection. This boldness is either proof of the risen Christ and the power of the spirit or evidence that they are drunk on new wine!

Tuesday in the Easter Octave – 7th April 2026:

Today, we pray that our Paschal Joy will embolden us to announce the '*good news*' of Christ crucified and risen from the dead. We pray, especially for Pope Leo and for the unity of the college of bishops as they safeguard the deposit of faith and always teach and hand on the Catholic and Apostolic Faith. When the Church, full of the Holy Spirit, shares the joy of the gospel, Adult Baptisms are not far behind and indeed we rejoice at record numbers this Easter across the dioceses of England this year! Now, we encourage them to play their full part in the life of the Church, so they lose nothing of the paschal joy that brought them to Christ in the sacraments. In Holy Baptism, God made is home in us, so we may live in the Father's House, our true home, forever.

Wednesday in the Easter Octave – 8th April 2026:

The ninth hour (or 3pm) is the hour of evening sacrifice and the hour Jesus died on the cross: As Divine Mercy Sunday will remind us, "*you expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O font of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you*". The miracles that Jesus works through the Apostles demonstrates the spiritual and supernatural power given to the Apostolic Church that provides for God's people a visible sign of the coming of the Kingdom. The sacraments too work with a person's faith, acting on their soul, making us fit for the Kingdom.

Thursday in the Easter Octave – 9th April 2026:

Our lives should be a testimony to Christ crucified and risen, and we do this primarily through our baptismal calling to service. In the model of the *'suffering servant'* we will, at times, need to put ourselves, our needs and wants, into second place to assist and raise up one of our brothers and sisters in need; meaning we will need to be active in both the *'corporal and spiritual works of mercy'*, so that we leave no one behind on the journey, leaving no one wallowing in sin and error. After two thousand years of the Church, it would be very difficult for us now to claim ignorance about the means of our salvation, and yet, perhaps, there is a missing generation who have not been properly catechised about the necessity of baptism and the other sacraments of salvation. Our mission to announce the gospel, therefore, is as urgent as ever, so help people know that Jesus is the Christ (*the Messiah*) and the only name by which we are saved.

Friday in the Easter Octave – 10th April 2026:

Part of our baptismal dignity is to confess our faith *'out there'* in the secular sphere; it's not just something we do on a Sunday but should shape all our interactions – at home, at school and in the workplace. Certainly, it would be a grave matter to stay silent where our silence would mean an implicit denial or disrespect our Catholic faith. And it would be a great scandal to suggest to others that the Church has abandoned her perennial teachings on faith and morals, especially in regard marriage and the protection of human life. At the end of any Mass or other formal liturgy, we are given our commission to announce and defend the faith, and surely, this will form part of our personal judgement at the conclusion of our pilgrimage on earth. While we are still fresh with Paschal Joy, it may be a very good thing to use this season to check on any weak points in our faith formation, so we are ready to give witness to Christ.

Saturday in the Easter Octave – 11th April 2026:

When Peter is brought before the Sanhedrin, the authorities are surprised by Peter's confidence, believing him to be poorly educated, and yet He is well versed in scripture. We often use the excuse of having a *'humble and simple faith'* to excuse our ignorance of the bible and the Church's teaching. John Paul II's gift of the Catechism and the revised code of Canon Law mean we can no longer use that excuse. Perhaps, we simply do not know where to start, so maybe, you'll consider joining the *'Life in the Spirit'* which starts on 15th April at 7.45pm and helps us rediscover the joy of our faith.